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Climate change conference goes 'virtual'

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World-leading science from the Met Office Hadley Centre is being shared on the international stage to spear-head projects to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Throughout this week a series of workshops will take place at Pune, India, where scientists from the UK and the sub-continent will bring their expertise together.

Computer models from the Met Office Hadley Centre and other UK science centres will be used to examine a range of impacts including how agriculture and cities will be affected by changes to the climate.

Meanwhile, in the first of its kind, a video conference with the Brazilian climate research centre, INPE-CPTE, took place last week. The four-hour debate concentrated on the impacts a warming climate will have on Brazil and in particular the tropical rain forest.

Met Office climate scientist Mark McCarthy, who is leading the workshop, said: "The world-wide issue of climate change and the impacts it brings, make it extremely important that we pool our knowledge on a global scale. At the same time we can focus our attention on specific parts of the world to provide regional predictions for the decades ahead".

Further video conferences are planned for later in the year, with the next link up between the Met Office Hadley Centre and political scientists in Colombia at the end of March.

The Met Office Hadley Centre also has a number of ongoing long-term projects with Brazilian and Russian scientists exploring the regional nature of climate change impacts.

These projects, the India workshop and video conferences are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Royal Society.

For further information:

Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680